

the chronicle

Yacht firm now back on the crest of a wave

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The fan who talked to soccer legend – and lost autograph

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Recession hits as SVR visitor tally falls

VISITOR numbers have fallen at one of the Wyre Forest's principal tourist attractions.

The Severn Valley Railway carried 225,570 passengers during the year – down by about 23,000 on the near-record figures of 2009.

SVR general manager Nick Ralls said: "The reality of recession always comes some time after the fact."

"In 2009, so many businesses were saying: 'Recession – what recession?'"

"But unfortunately, the effects

always catch up later, and that is what we are seeing here.

"We have to take it on the chin and draw encouragement from the fact that the leisure and tourism market has slowly started to edge back towards stability."

Taken against the railway's average passenger figures over the last 10 years – 230,400 – the 2010 result is 5,000 down, representing five or six fewer passengers per train over the 12 months.

SVR hopes of an end-of-season boost during the Santa season in

December – normally the railway's busiest month – were severely hit by the Arctic weather which forced the cancellation of a number of trains.

A points problem at Kidderminster on Christmas Eve added to the woe, causing six of the day's 11 scheduled trains to be cancelled.

Promotion

But 2010 wasn't all gloom. Extra advertising, combined with a schools summer holiday Kids for a Quid promotion brought more than 40,000 people to the railway during

August – one of the best results in its 40 years. The SVR will promote a big programme of special events in 2011, including a three-day Swing-

ing Sixties event (May 20-22) headlined by leading tribute bands The Beatles (The Upbeat Beatles), The Kinks (The Kinx), and The Who (The Hwo) in a series of concerts under the all-glass canopy at Kidderminster station.

Also planned for the event are a 1960s fashion show, displays of Meccano, Scalextric and children's toys, Morris Minors, and 1960s-

period steam locomotives visiting the line from other railways.

The railway will also wheel out one of the Travelling Post Office coaches involved in the notorious 1963 Great Train Robbery at Linslade, Bucks, when an organised gang stopped a postal sorting train and stole £2.6million in used banknotes.

The SVR re-opens for business this year on Saturday, February 12, following major civil engineering work and trackbed renewals at both Bewdley and Arley.

Harriers take punishment on the chin

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers will accept their five-point penalty for a breach of financial regulations.

The punishment, imposed for not handing in accounts on time, relates to a period before the current board took over.

The board has confirmed it will not contest the deduction handed out by the Football Conference on January 6.

Harriers' punishment was a severe blow to a club pushing for promotion.

But officials feel prolonging the situation by an appeal would only add to the distress caused.

Chairman Mark Serrell said: "Despite the fact that the misdeemeanours we're being punished for had taken place some time before my arrival at the club, I still feel responsible for this points deduction as I am now the club's chairman and must shoulder it as so."

Undermined

"Whilst we do not feel that an appeal process would be worthwhile I cannot stress strongly enough how much I, and the rest of the board of directors, feel for the playing staff, management team, staff and supporters of this club over what has happened."

"Outstanding achievement on the playing field, which should not be unnoted, has been undermined by offences off it."

"This is completely unacceptable, and supporters have my word that this type of error will never be made again as long as I remain involved with the club."

Meanwhile, Aggborough plays host to a quiz night on Tuesday (January 25).

It will be in the Aggborough Suite from 7.30pm. Teams of five pay £10 to register and all proceeds from the night will go to Kemp Hospice.

Ele Millward, community fundraiser at the hospice, said: "It's an excellent way to cheer up a January evening and have a change from the television," she added.

"Support would be really appreciated."

Birthday parties on way

BIRTHDAY celebrations are on the way at Riverside Children's Centre in Bewdley.

The centre is holding a series of birthday parties for local children who have celebrated their first, second, third or fourth birthdays in the last 12 months.

The fun begins on Monday, January 24 with a party for children aged one and continues in February with a party for two-year-olds.

Three and four-year-olds get their turn in April.

Centre manager Alwynne Curley said: "This is a great opportunity for children of the same age to get together, make new friends and celebrate. We are looking forward to fun, games and party food."

Bookings: 01299 409169.

Man faces charge on child death

A FORMER Stourport man has appeared in court accused of killing a child, Theo Davies.

Jonathan James, aged 24, now of Mod St Athan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, was bailed in the manslaughter case.

Theo died on August 24, 2009 after an incident at Old Ford Walk, Walsheas Estate, Arley Kings, Stourport.

Judge Alistair McCreath adjourned the case until June 10 at Worcester Crown Court.

FLOWER SHOW THREAT

STOURPORT'S annual horticultural show could fall victim to health and safety regulations.

The Riverside Meadows show pulled in more than 1,000 people over its two days last year.

But restrictions which were largely averted in 2009 may hit this August's event.

Wyre Forest District Council said that all stallholders must leave their vehicles on the car park rather than behind their stalls, to reduce any possible danger to the public.

Just weeks before the event, organisers of the Stourport Horticultural Society show convinced the council to allow most vehicles to remain on the field, although some were restricted to the visitor parking slots.

Stallholders using the public spaces also had to pay the parking charge or risk a fine. They were later reimbursed by the society.

Ever since, organisers Angela Phillips and husband Gary have been waiting anxiously to discover the fate of this year's festival.

Mrs Phillips, who wrote to the

Exclusive by Sarah Hazelwood

s.hazelwood@expressandstar.co.uk

council at the start of January, is still awaiting a reply.

She said: "I have already started planning for this year's bank holiday show. I'm not going to wait around for the council to make their decision because we don't have time for that."

"Last year's council proposal was so last minute and even though many vehicles were allowed to remain on the field we still lost out, because we were the ones that had to pay back the parking charges."

Heavy

"It is so silly to ask the holders to walk from their stalls to their cars every time they need to stock up, especially because many of the items are very heavy. We understand that there are rules that need to be met, but we have been running the show for more than 20 years and never have we encountered any problems."

"I have been told that these regulations were being spread out across other similar locations in Stourport but stallholders who feature at our festival said they have had no trouble on any other site," she added.

"It has been a real bombshell.

We all hope that this year's event will go ahead but if vehicles are going to be forced off the field then we will, without a doubt, lose stalls, and without stalls we just don't have a show."

She said stallholder vehicles taking up parking spaces last year meant less room for visitors.

Michael Ecob, who has been society president for six years, said: "In my time here I have never known anything like this to come about. If these restrictions come in to force it will affect a lot of people and would be a huge blow."

"Common sense should be allowed to prevail but I can see that it's going to take some serious discussion with the council."

Councillor Tracey Onslow, cabinet member for community and partnership services, said:

"We want to support the society and this event. We will discuss any issues or concerns with the organisers in order to resolve them so that everyone can enjoy the show in safety. Like the organisers themselves we need to ensure the safety of everyone at the event including children who would be walking around the field at the same time as vehicle manoeuvres."

The return of the king



King Radwael returns to claim his own at Stourport tomorrow (January 21). He will be officially opening the new Saxon hall – rebuilt following a fire two years ago – at Bishops Wood environmental centre. Full story – page eight

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Town's heritage weaves its way into the museum



The museum entrance shared with Morrisons



Charles Talbot is overseeing the carpet museum project with wife Jean



View of the Stourvale Mill in Green Street back in 1855

IT WEAVED a reputation as a carpet capital of the world, creating designs which have graced floors from cricket pavilions to airport lounges and ocean liners.

Now a new project aims to turn the spotlight on skills which remain among the pride of the region.

A new museum is planned to focus on Kidderminster's illustrious carpet-making heritage, showing visitors how its reputation spread throughout the world. Kidderminster Carpet Museum Trust has been working for years to set up the museum, which is expected to bring in 24,000 visitors a year.

Members hope that the museum at the Grade II listed former carpet-making factory The Stourvale Mill in Green Street will become an attraction as well-known as the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, and the Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley.

The exterior of the building has been given a £500,000 renovation by Morrisons, which is based nearby.

The trust has leased the building from the supermarket for 50 years in order to create the carpet museum.

"Carpets is Kidderminster – and Kidderminster is carpets" is an old phrase that rings true today, says Charles Talbot, one of the key movers behind the project.

Despite the demise of all but a handful of the 25 or so carpet companies that used to be based in the town, the industry



Stourvale Mill next to Morrisons, Kidderminster

still runs in the veins of many local people. And none more so than Charles, whose ancestors founded one of the town's early carpet manufacturing firms, G and H Talbot and Sons, in 1735. A former mayor of Kidderminster, who served the town as a Tory in 1965, Charles is now a driving force behind the planned new museum dedicated to the industry.

His ancestors moved from Wolverley to Kidderminster in the 1650s and were originally clothiers. But then the family spread from cloth manufacturing into carpets.

Henry Talbot, who founded the family carpet firm with his brother George, was Charles's great-great-great-grandfather. The family eventually sold their business, in 1869, to a young entrepreneur called Michael Tomkinson, who went on to develop it into one of the town's most famous and successful companies.

Solicitors

The son of Brierley Hill's former MP, Conservative John Talbot, who served from 1959 to 1967, Charles himself is a lawyer. Now aged 79, he lives with his wife Jean in the village of Rock, near Bewdley, and still does consultancy work for Painters solicitors in Kidderminster.

The legal eagle side of the family started with Charles's great-great-grandfather William but he has always been fascinated by his forebears' historical links to the area's major industry. Charles said: "The man who started the carpet museum project in 1980 was Kenneth Tomkinson, who was

grandson of Michael and sales director of Tomkinson's. He and I met up and agreed there had got to be a carpet museum in the area. "He asked me to be a trustee and to do all the preliminary legal work. Unfortunately, Kenneth died in 1987 but I have continued with the work he set me."

"From 1992 to 1997 the project went into abeyance but I revived it in 1997, when a cousin of Kenneth's, Richard Pugh-Cook, joined me – him as chairman and me as secretary of the trust."

"Even though I've never been involved in carpets myself, the industry runs in my blood, and my wife Jean is equally committed to our work to get the museum off the ground."

The number of carpet factories in Kidderminster has dwindled, and the 15,000-strong workforce is now down to 1,200. "Even having just five factories is five more than most towns – so Kidderminster is still synonymous with the carpet industry," said Charles. "The town concentrates on woven carpet, as distinct from tufted, which is more the fashion now."

A grant of £1.9m towards the museum was approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) last September following years of work by the trust. And members hope it will be a matter of months before they don hard hats to watch as the museum is built. It is scheduled to open to the public in October 2012.

The museum will be split into two sections, one part celebrating Kidderminster's carpet-making heritage and the other charting the history of the town itself.

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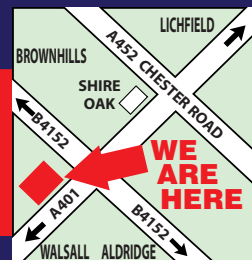
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Mayor on lookout for spare Christmas gifts

KIDDERMINSTER mayor Councillor Jeffrey Baker is looking for some late Christmas gifts.

He is appealing for members of the public to donate unwanted Christmas presents as part of his mayoral charity appeal.

Councillor Baker looking for unwanted gifts so that he can use them as raffle and tombola prizes at his forthcoming dinner dance in aid of the Help for Heroes charity.

"If you have been given more bath time smellies than you could ever use in a lifetime of baths, why not donate these, along with any unwanted Christmas gifts to a great cause?" he said.

"Any donations can be dropped off at Kidderminster Town Hall," he added.

"This year, Kidderminster Town Hall will host the mayor's charity dinner dance on Friday, March 11.

"This year's chosen charity is Help for Heroes and we hope to raise a considerable sum for their vast efforts," said Councillor Baker.

Entertainment

"It will be a wonderful evening with a three-course meal, raffle, tombola and entertainment from The Worcestershire Big Band Orchestra."

Tickets are priced at £28 each. For tickets and any further information, contact Sharon Tandy on 01562 861 429.



Kidderminster town centre manager Jackie Roberts donates a gift to the mayor, Councillor Jeffrey Baker, for his charity appeal

Small steps to healthier life in 2011

THE Great Swapathon could help Wyre Forest residents stick to their New Year resolutions.

The event is aimed at getting people to make small swaps to improve health, such as using skimmed milk instead of full fat and wholemeal bread instead of white. The campaign is run by Change4Life and supported by NHS Worcestershire. It runs as part of National Obesity Fortnight from January 17-30.

NHS Worcestershire is working with major Co-operative food stores to help shoppers find out their BMI (body mass index) and make the changes.

Dr Frances Howie, assistant director of public health for NHS Worcestershire, said: "We've all done it - made New Year's resolutions in January, promising to live a healthier lifestyle and then forgotten about them. We are more likely to make permanent changes if we start with small steps and the Great Swapathon campaign really helps with that."

Co-op dates include January 20 at Franche Road, Kidderminster and January 22 at Lombard Street, Stourport.

Search is on for Mini man Tony

THE ORGANISER of a special Mini event due to be staged at the Severn Valley Railway next month is looking to track down the owner of a 1960 model to complete the display.

Former Longbridge worker and Mini enthusiast Keith Woodfield is assembling a trio of exhibition cars from the first three years of production: 1959 to 1961.

The display is due to form one of the centrepieces of Classic Transport Day at Kidderminster SVR station at the start of the half-term holiday on February 19.

Droitwich-based Keith, aged 77, owns a car dating from 1959 and has organised



Keith Woodfield and his Mini

the 1961 vehicle too.

Now he is looking to contact former electricians' foreman Tony Haywood, who owns a blue 1960 Mini, and lives in the Stourbridge area.

"I have attended shows with Tony in the past but have lost contact with him," Keith said.

"If I could get in touch with him, that would complete our display."

"All three of us used to work at Longbridge and we have 120 years' service between us."

Keith used to buy a new Mini every year when he worked at Longbridge and owns one of the last models to roll off the production line, dating from 1998. But he bought a 1959 car, which are now in very short supply, six years ago and reckons it has changed his life.

Tremendous

"There is a tremendous amount of interest in the car everywhere I go," says Keith.

"The last time I was at Kidderminster I didn't get the chance to look round the station because everyone wanted to find out about the car!" Anyone who can help him should call 01905 771870.

Warning on store stamps

FAKE Tesco saving stamps are being presented at tills in Kidderminster.

A woman was detained at the Castle Road store on January 14 after attempting to redeem some of the stamps.

Police were called but no action was taken - the woman had bought the stamps in good faith.

But officers are warning people to be alert because it is the third time in a week that customers have handed in fake stamps at the till.

Customers are being advised to buy the £1 stamps only from an authorised machine. Pc Sarah Bytheway said: "The fake stamps closely resemble the real ones but are self-adhesive, whereas the genuine stamps have to be moistened to stick them into the booklets."

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Clean-up
booster
down at
marsh

PUXTON Marsh in Franche received a New Year facelift when a litter pick was carried out.

The issue of litter around the marsh was raised at the December meeting of Franche Pact (Partners and Communities Together).

So on Thursday, January 6 Stan Reeves – a member of the West Mercia Probation Trust who attends Pact – arranged for six offenders to tidy up the footpaths along Puxton Marsh as part of community payback sentences.

Mr Reeves said: "We followed paths along the canal and river and collected 24 sacks of rubbish."

"It was a very successful day and I am hoping that this is something we can do again and possibly roll out across other areas of Kidderminster."

Bins

"We did notice that there was a lack of bins in the area and this is something that will be brought up with the council."

Pe Paul Noke added: "This is an excellent example of how Pact can achieve results."

"Pact meetings are not just about raising police issues but about the environment in which we live."

The next Pact meeting for Franche is on Monday, March 14 at Franche Community School, Chestnut Grove, starting at 7pm. Anyone living or working locally is welcome.

Groups out to bag Lottery prize

LOTTERY funded organisations in the Wyre Forest are all hoping to bag the £2,000 prize at this year's National Lottery Awards.

Entrants who make it to the finals of the awards will receive national recognition at a star-studded event which will be broadcast on BBC One later this year.

The winning project will then also receive a £2,000 cash boost in addition to its Lottery

funding. In the last year more than £1.5million of Lottery money has been invested in good causes across Worcestershire.

Rebecca Gowrley, of the National Lottery Awards, said: "These awards are the annual search to find the UK's favourite Lottery funded projects."

Benefit

"Lottery players raise £28m every week for projects which benefit people, places and com-

munities across the UK.

"The awards recognise how Lottery funded projects put the money to good use while celebrating the people behind them who work so tirelessly to make their organisations a success."

"If a Lottery project has had a positive impact on your local area, made a real difference to your life if you are personally involved with a project that is transforming your community, we want to hear from you," she added.

The awards are split into seven categories, each reflecting an area of Lottery funding.

The seven are: Sport, heritage, arts, environment, health, education, voluntary or charity.

Visit

To nominate a project visit www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk or call 02079 606828.

All entry nominations must be received by 5pm on Friday, February 18.

Sealine back on crest of a wave

A KIDDERMINSTER luxury boat manufacturer is riding on the crest of a wave after a spell in the doldrums.

Sealine is to take on more than 50 extra workers to cope with demand.

It cut nearly 300 jobs two years ago due to the downturn but now says it needs extra engineers and shopfloor workers to help launch eight new models over three years at its premises in Whitehouse Road.

The firm says there has been "strong demand" for most recent boats, allowing it to invest in new models.

Managing director Chris O'Connor said new dealers were introduced in the UK, Turkey, France and Spain.

Interest

They made inroads into South America and the Far East and events such as UK roadshows increased interest.

There would be a further seven events in Spain, he said.

The firm plans to be represented at events and boat shows over 200



Sealine's award-winning F42 on the water

days this year.

Sealine's F42 model, launched in September, won the "best flybridge cruiser" award at the recent London Tullet Prebion Boat Show, which attracts buyers and enthusiasts from all over the world.

Sealine spokeswoman Sue Hardwick said: "The

F42 has been very popular – it has gone down a storm since it was launched.

"We have increased production to cope with demand."

Sealine products cost from £100,000 to £1million and Mrs Hardwick said: "We sell our boats around the world –

and the whole world doesn't stop because there's an economic downturn."

"People are still spending money on their leisure time and, for some, that means boats."

The firm says a "revolutionary" 42ft open sports cruiser, called the SC42, will be launched in summer.

Expanding

Mr O'Connor said: "We are fully committed to expanding our model range and growing the company."

"We believe this investment is the right strategy for the business at the right time and will secure future success for Sealine."

"As a result of the demand for our most recent boats and this additional investment in future models we will be hiring over 50 new employees."

Tourist couple fly home as unrest rocks Tunisia



Safely back – Bill and Brenda Carr, of Bewdley, flew out of Tunisia

A BEWDLEY couple had to abandon their fortnight's holiday after just three days after unrest rocked Tunisia.

Bill and Brenda Carr, of Cleobury Road, were among the tourists on an emergency flight which landed at Birmingham on Saturday.

More than 3,000 Britons fled over the weekend amid violent riots.

But Mr Carr, aged 69, said he and his 70-year-old wife had not encountered any trouble.

"We have seen no problems at all," he said. "The most we saw was coming

back on the coach and there were a lot of army soldiers on the road."

"We had three days of a fortnight and were then told there was a chance we would be coming back."

"It is a shame as it looked a nice place but you just can't take a chance," added Mr Carr.

Dozens of people have died in the clashes, including 42 people killed in a fire at a jail in Monastir in eastern Tunisia.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has fled the country.

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Glimpse of past stays for future

VISITORS to a museum near Kidderminster now have even longer to enjoy a nostalgic look back at life in the 1950s and 1960s.

From Ration Book to Rolling Stones first opened at Worcestershire County Museum based at Hartlebury Castle in May last year and was due to come to an end last month.

However bosses have now decided to extend the run of the display until May this year after it proved a hit with visitors.

Typical

People can look around a lounge and kitchen of a typical home from the time as well as catch a glimpse of other items from yesteryear.

Exhibition organiser David Kendrick said: "It has really been popular and we have had some great comments about it."

"I think people have enjoyed the exhibition because it is all about nostalgia."

"There are toys and games and some costumes people can view as well."

The Worcestershire County Museum is open between 10am and 5pm between Tuesdays and Fridays and 11am until 5pm on weekends.

Council's meeting goes live on web

TODAY'S (January 20) full meeting of the county council will be the subject of a webcast at 10am.

Those with internet access can follow the meeting as it happens or watch the webcast later. A link appears at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/system-pages/webcasts



Collections officer David Kendrick relaxes in a lounge at the exhibition

Getting Onside to help out others

A CHARITY which helps vulnerable adults across Worcestershire is looking to train volunteers from the Wyre Forest.

Onside provides advocacy, mentoring and befriending to those who need it.

Full training will be given and is an opportunity to meet other people who are

joining to volunteer. Claire Watkins, volunteer co-ordinator, said "Our volunteers are providing support across the Wyre Forest area which is invaluable."

"We would love to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer as an advocate, mentor or befriender."

"Volunteers enjoy the flexible aspect of our work along with the chance to join in at

our local social events we run for volunteers. The comment that really sums it up came from one of our recently trained volunteers: 'It's a chance to make a difference to someone's life.'"

The next training course is being arranged. For more details, call 01905 746556 or email volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk

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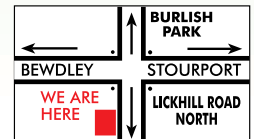
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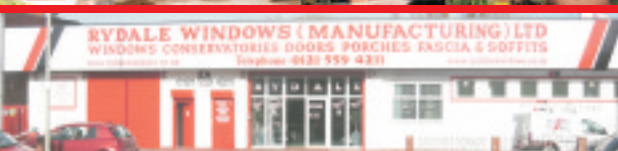
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thechronicle

Oil thefts increase as prices soar

SOARING prices have led to a wave of fuel and heating oil thefts in the area.

Heating oil worth around £325 was stolen from a tank outside a property in Broadmill Lane, Beoley between Tuesday, January 4, and Sunday, January 9.

It is believed the oil was siphoned off from a field adjoining the property.

Seven hundred litres of kerosene heating oil were taken

from a tank at Broome, Stourbridge and reported on December 18 while around £1,000 worth of red diesel was stolen from Bewdley Pines golf club, Habberley Road, at about 7.30pm on Tuesday, January 4.

Police are warning people to be on their guard and are advising owners of storage tanks to review their security.

Oil and liquefied petroleum has risen in cost by around 70 per cent in around four months due to a combination of price

and duty increases. Inspector Julian Smith, of West Mercia Police, said: "The price of heating oil has rocketed in recent months and that could make it more attractive to thieves."

"As many of the properties that use this type of fuel tend to be in isolated or rural areas where there are no gas mains it does make these tanks more vulnerable."

"We would urge owners to be vigilant and to report any suspi-

cious activity around their or neighbouring properties as well as reviewing the security of their storage tanks."

Crime risk manager Pc Stan Baker said: "Perimeter security is an important consideration for householders who have fuel storage tanks."

"We would also recommend the installation of security lighting and fitting an alarm which indicates if the oil level has suddenly dropped. Fuel locking caps are also available."

Final push on the Tryangle awards

TIME is ticking for county residents planning to make a nomination in Worcestershire County Council's Tryangle Awards.

Deadline is February 12 to nominate any 11 to 19-year-old in the latest round of awards, launched by the council's youth support team.

The awards highlight the efforts and achievements of 'unsung heroes' - young people whose work, courage or achievement often goes unrecognised.

Industry to get its say

MANUFACTURERS in Kidderminster are being urged to have their say on the future of industry support.

The Manufacturing Advisory Service - West Midlands, which helped more than 1,800 companies in 2010, is asking firms to respond to the Government's advanced manufacturing growth review before the deadline on February 11.

Simon Griffiths, MAS-WM chief executive, said: "This document sets out the action the Government is taking to provide the right business environment."

"What we want to do as an organisation is to make sure that manufacturers in Kidderminster know about this framework and are given every opportunity to comment on the plans."

"There will never be a better opportunity for firms working at the coalface to have their views fed into the decision making process so they actually influence policy that will evolve over the next decade."

Firms can download the review by visiting <http://www.bis.gov.uk/as-sets/biscore/business-sectors/docs/g10-1297-growth-review-framework-for-advanced-manufacturing>.

All comments should be sent to amgr@bis.gsi.gov.uk and will be considered by the review team in preparation for the first report in time for Budget 2011.

Skate time for pupils

YOUNGSTERS are invited to get their skates on again for a roller disco in Stourport, staged with help from the Local Policing Team.

It will be held at Stourport Leisure Centre in Harold Davies Drive on Saturday, January 29, from 6.30pm for primary school aged children (5-11 years) and then from 7-9pm for high school students (12-16).

Youth Outreach Stourport (YORs) has organised it in conjunction with the police and the leisure centre, which is providing the facilities at a special rate.

Entrance costs £1.50 and a limited number of roller skates will be available for hire.

There are seven categories ranging from bravery to personal development.

Nominations for the awards - which are in their sixth year - are welcome from anyone involved with young people, such as teachers, youth workers, sports coaches and volunteers, or family and friends.

Councillor Marcus Hart, cabinet member with responsibility for education, said: "We are delighted with the response we have received so far, but with just over one more month to go, we really would welcome one last push on nominations."

Certificate

"Our Tryangle Awards have got bigger and better each year, and it's the young people who have been awarded 'triers' who have made this happen."

For the first time, nominations can be made via www.youthworcs.org.uk/tryangle - alternatively, call the council's youth support team on 01905 765417.

Everyone nominated gets a certificate and the overall winners of each category will be announced at a ceremony at County Hall, Worcester on March 17.

The seven categories are: Bravery, arts, music, sports or outdoor activity, good friends and carers, citizenship and environment, and personal development.

Two held on drugs find

TWO men have been arrested after a large quantity of drugs were seized in Kidderminster.

Police called to a disturbance in Avon Road on Tuesday, January 11 discovered a large quantity of what is believed to be ecstasy tablets as well as a small cannabis cultivation.

Two men were arrested on suspicion of assault, possession of controlled drugs and cultivation of a controlled drug.

One was kept in custody and the other released on police bail to March 23 pending further inquiries.

Thieves' double raid

THIEVES broke into a garage in Park Avenue, Stourport twice in two days.

They struck between 6.30pm and 9.30pm on Thursday, January 6, taking a £500 set of Dunlop golf clubs.

The raiders returned the next day and took five alloy wheels for an Audi A3 and six for a Citroen.

Witnesses or anyone with information should call police on 0300 333 3000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Mellow Yellow Pages



The 2009 competition winners were St Catherine's Primary School, Kidderminster which recycled 2.7 books per pupil. Lewis Freeman and Holly Tandy-Smith from the school are pictured with Jo Duffield, of Wyre Forest District Council, and campaign mascot Kirk

WYRE FOREST pupils are mixing green and yellow in a national competition.

They aim to recycle as many old Yellow Pages directories as possible during January and February.

Kirk's Recycling Competition is championed by campaign mascot Kirk, who asks residents to recycle their old Yellow Pages directories and give the old front covers to a pupil to take to school.

Participating schools can win up to £500 as well as educational Woodland Trust prizes.

Schools taking part will receive a free promotional pack and monthly eco-educational newsletters with topical ideas and curriculum-linked resources. Full details at www.yellowwoods.org.uk.

Kirk's Recycling Challenge is part of the Yellow Woods Challenge, an initiative run by Nell that encourages young children to learn about the environment.

Litter, noise on agenda

FACTORY noise and litter are among the items on the agenda for the next Aggborough and Spennells meeting of Pact (Partners and Communities Together).

It will be held at the Sea Scout hut, Hoo Road, Kidderminster, on Tuesday, January 25 (7pm).

Those attending will get feedback on the priority issues raised at October's meeting which included noise from a local factory, litter in and around the shops in Warbler Place and a request for a pedestrian crossing in Heronswood Road.

CSO Richard Greybanks said: "Residents will have the chance to raise any new matters of concern, and will be given the opportunity to vote on issues that matter most to them."

"Anyone living or working locally is welcome to attend the meeting, but if for any reason they cannot make it but want to raise an issue they can still do so by contacting the local policing team."

Aggborough and Spennells Local Policing Team can be contacted on 0300 333 3000 ext 3914 or by emailing aggboroughspennellsandruraleast.1pt@westmercia.pnn.police.e.uk

Protect those presents

WYRE FOREST residents who received gifts such as laptops and mobile phones for Christmas can get them properly marked free in Kidderminster.

Police, community support officers and neighbourhood wardens will be marking presents with the owners' postcodes at the Swan Centre on Saturday, January 22 from 10am to 2pm as part of Operation Protect, West Mercia Police's anti-burglary campaign. They will also offer crime prevention advice and promote Immobilise, the national property register where valuables can be registered free. Go to www.immobilise.com for further details.

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thechronicle

Police call for new faces at the next Pact meeting

POLICE hope to see some new faces at the next Areley Kings Pact (Partners and Communities Together) meeting in Stourport.

It takes place tonight (January 20) at 7pm at St Bartholomew's School.

Pc Andy Brooks said: "We are seeing a turnout of around 25 people at our meetings, which is good, but we are always looking for more."

"In particular we tend to see the same people every time, and while our regulars are always welcome it would be nice to see them being joined by some new faces."

Pc Brooks said the meetings had been switched from Monday to a Thursday to encourage a bigger attendance.

Tonight's meeting will get an update on the priorities chosen at the last one - articulated lorries allegedly using Areley Common Road in breach of a weight restriction, vehicles parked in Princess Way causing a potential obstruction to emergency vehicles, and a scrap vehicle business being run from Martley Road, along with concerns about a mini-motorbike being ridden around the area.

Pensioner is conned by pipes trick

A CRUEL CONMAN stole a large amount of cash from a Bewdley pensioner after telling her he needed to check the water supply.

He knocked on the woman's front door in Queensway and said that the water might be disconnected due to work on pipes in the road.

She let him into her kitchen, where he appeared to carry out work under the sink. Having said he needed to return to his van he left the house but did not return. The elderly woman then found that her bedroom had been searched and a large amount of cash was missing.

The burglar struck on Tuesday, January 11 between 3pm and 3.40pm and was last seen walking in the direction of Cordle Marsh Road.

He is described as white, short and slim, and was wearing a dark coloured beanie hat.

Pc Adrian Bartlett said: "It's always concerning when elderly members of the community are targeted in this way and we are appealing for help in identifying this offender."

"We'd also encourage anyone with elderly neighbours or family members, especially those living alone, to discuss this with them. "Remind them to keep their doors locked and to use spy-holes and door chains if they have them fitted. Encourage them to double-check the identity of any caller and not to invite into their homes anyone they do not know or are not expecting."

Police are looking to see if the burglary is connected to a similar incident at Cherry Orchard, Kidderminster on the same day between 11am and 1.30pm.

Measures

An elderly woman answered the door to a man who told there was a water leak next door. She allowed him access to the kitchen and back garden but nothing was stolen.

The man was white, about 30, wearing a navy blue jacket and a granddad-style flat, dark coloured cap. He was about 5ft 6in, a little fat and possibly had gingery brown hair.

Anyone with information about this theft or who notices any unusual activity in their neighbourhood should contact Pc Bartlett on 0300 333 3000 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

West Mercia Police's 'Knock Knock' campaign aims to raise awareness about the security measures people should take before they let anyone into their homes.

Details at www.west-mercia.police.uk

Saxon king about to claim his hall



Head of centre John Rhymer outside the hall

AN "ANCIENT KING" to the occasion by will open the new Saxon hall at an environmental centre near Stourport.

The county council-run centre is popular with school pupils who visit to learn about our Saxon and Viking ancestors.

Centre head John Rhymer said: "We were devastated when our original hall burned down in 2008."

"After lots of hard work, the new hall is complete and is to be officially opened by King Radwald."

"The hall forms an invaluable and unique part of our Saxon and Viking education programmes where youngsters experience life in the Dark Ages."

MP going local for office

WYRE FOREST MP Mark Garnier is practising what he preaches in trying to use only local suppliers.

The MP recently visited furniture supplier and manufacturer Witley Jones of Stourport to place an order for his new office in Kidderminster.

The firm, based at the Sandy Lane

industrial estate, has been making home, school and office furniture for 14 years. It recently made a major investment in CNC woodworking machines.

Mr Garnier said: "I want as many of the items we use in the course of our business to be sourced from within the constituency."

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Fan met a legend but lost the autograph



The young Paul Hooper, second left in the cap, lines up for the signature of Sir Stanley Matthews

Wizard Sir Stanley cast a spell on supporters

A FOOTBALL fanatic who met sporting hero Sir Stanley Matthews in Kidderminster 50 years ago has relived the day – and his devastation at losing the legend's autograph.

Paul Hooper discovered the picture in his collection of sporting memorabilia during a clearout at his home in Forester Way.

The photograph, taken at the then Co-Operative store on Worcester Street in the mid-1950s, shows 10-year-old Paul clutching his autograph book as he stands with other fans.

Sir Stanley, also known as "The wizard of dribble" is regarded as one of the greatest football players of all time. More than five decades ago he was touring the country and went to Kidderminster to promote his new football boots.

By Sarah Hazelwood

The hard-toed, brown leather boots hanging on the wall in the photograph are far removed from today's multicoloured footwear.

Mr Hooper recalls that the England winger spent about an hour at the store speaking to his fans about life as a footballer and his love for the sport.

Searched

He said: "Over the years I have always kept all of my sporting collectables in a box but when I realised that I couldn't find Stanley's autograph amongst them, I was devastated. I have searched everywhere for it."

"I was absolutely awe-inspired when I met him because he is definitely one of the most famous footballers the game has ever seen."

Comparing the legend with

some of today's Premiership footballers, Mr Hooper believes there will never be another like him.

He said: "Stanley was far from being anything like some of the players we see today, who really take their sport for granted."

"It's not just about the skill any more it's about how much money can be made from it. I idolised Stanley, as did a lot of people. It would be great if anybody from the picture can remember this wonderful day as well as I do."

Blackpool and Stoke great Sir Stanley was twice European Footballer of the Year and played his last competitive game in the old first division at the age of 50.

His ashes are buried beneath Stoke City's Britannia Stadium which he officially opened in 1997.

West Brom fan Mr Hooper would welcome a chat with anyone else who met Sir Stanley in Kidderminster. Call 01562 752780.

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thechronicle

Here comes the bride at old hall

KIDDERMINSTER Town Hall is to play host to a wedding fair later this month.

Wyre Forest District Council wants to showcase the historic hall as a perfect wedding venue.

The fair on Saturday, January 29 will be launched at 10am by town mayor Councillor Jeffrey Baker and admission is free.

A bridal fashion show will grace the catwalk at noon and there will be a range of exhibitors on hand.

Intimate

Couples who book their wedding at the fair will get up to 20 per cent off the cost of hiring the town hall.

Councillor Anne Hingley, cabinet member for legal and corporate services, said: "As a setting for a wedding it is perfect for those who want a small intimate party or a large gathering for up to 450 guests."

"There are two rooms where wedding ceremonies and civil partnerships can take place. Small ceremonies can be celebrated in the King Charles room, which features medieval oak panelling and period furnishing. Larger ceremonies can be enjoyed in the Victorian Music Room which has a wealth of fine architectural features."



A wedding in the Victorian Music Room at Kidderminster Town Hall

Food for thought at the church

MEMBERS of a food group will be chewing the fat about home-cured meats when they meet tonight (January 20).

Sally and Jeremy Levell of Forest Pig Charcuterie, Bell Farm, Far Forest, will talk about making home-cured charcuterie. They produce the meat using their own traditional and rare breed pigs, reared in the Wyre

Forest to support Forestry Commission woodland management.

The Transition Bewdley Food Group meeting is at the Baptist Church in High Street, Bewdley. Take a home-cooked dish for a shared supper at 7pm or arrive for the talk an hour later.

Admission is free but donations of food or cookery-related items for sale help cover the room charge.



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thechronicle

Big night awaiting the young poetic hopefuls

FOUR poets from the Wyre Forest have reached the final of a contest to find the county's first young poet laureate.

On the shortlist of 15 are Molly Bradbury and Liz Hollis, both aged 14, from Stourport; Sophie Morgan, 14 from Kidderminster and the youngest of the four Harriet Cambridge, 13, who attends school in Wyre Forest.

Quicker internet is nearer

SUPER-FAST broadband is a step nearer for Stourport.

BT says the next phase of a programme to connect tens of thousands of Midlands homes to the service is under way.

More than 40,000 properties in Wolverhampton, Bloxwich, Walsall and Wednesbury are already on BT's fibre optic broadband network.

Bosses said Burntwood, near Cannock, will be connected "imminently". There are plans for 9,000 properties in Stourport to go online by spring 2012.

It is part of wider plans to open access to hundreds of thousands of Black Country, Birmingham and Warwickshire homes and businesses.

Other areas included in the rollout include Birmingham Central, Streety and Cheslyn Hay.

They are now preparing to take part in the competition's grand final at Number 8 Theatre in Pershore on Friday, January 28. There they will be asked to perform their poetry in front of an audience and a panel of judges.

The judging panel, made up of Kathy Kirk, Steve Wilson and Jodie McConnell from Worcestershire County Council and professional poet Matt Windle will be looking for someone with talent who will embrace the role of Worcestershire's Young Poet Laureate and promote poetry to others.

Embrace

Entrants had to write one poem on the subject of home and another on any topic. Well over 100 entries were received and the shortlisting process was described as "very tough" by one of the competition's organisers, Natalie McVey.

"We've received a fantastic range of entries," she said. "All sorts of styles, themes and topics have been explored. It has been a joy to read and judge them all."

The winner will receive a trophy and other goodies.



Birmingham's Young Poet Laureate for 2007/08, Matt Windle, is a judge

Pipes ready for Burns Night

SCOTTISH pipers will celebrate Burns Night at The Royal Foresters Inn, Callow Hill.

Haggis will be brought in and the pipes will skirl in the time-honoured Scottish tradition to celebrate Burns Night, the commemoration of the life

and works of poet Robert Burns.

The inn is laying on a three-course traditional Scottish meal – and doubtless the odd tot or two – to mark the night on Tuesday, January 25.

For details contact The Royal Forester on 01299 266286.

To err is human,
to arr is pirate

PUPILS at three schools in Stourport will get together in March for a week of planning, fun – and pirates.

Starting on March 7 they will run a joint curriculum development partnership called the Trinity Project – with pirates as one of the themes.

The idea is to bring together staff expertise and develop innovative and exciting ideas for pupils through themed activities and trips.

The three schools involved are St Bartholomew's Primary, Wilden Primary and Hartlebury Primary.

Staff have been divided into groups and will focus on a particular year group.

The activities for each group are: Nursery, gypsy Roma and boats; Reception, the big top; Year One, chocolate; Year Two, destination, destination – focusing on flight; Year Three, food around the world; Year Four, pirates; Year Five, alternative transport; Year Six, show time.

Biggest survey set for launch

WYRE FOREST residents are being urged to help the world's biggest ever wildlife survey.

The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch takes place on the weekend of January 29-30.

Details from website, www.rspb.org.uk/bird-watch.



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LabrinthSomewhere over
the Rainbow
Israel 'IZ'
Kamakawiwo'oleAm I Forgiveness
RumerStuck Like Glue
SugarlandCrash and Burn
Scarlett FeverAs expected, my voice
is always the first to go

WHAT a strange old week. Those who join me on The Wyre Breakfast Show will know that I've come off the back of this nasty flu and have had little to no voice as a consequence! Why is it radio presenters never get a broken arm or an ankle injury, always the throat that goes first? But enough whinging...let's take a look at some stuff happening across North Worcestershire:

The Royal Forester in association with Far Forest School PTA holds its next community quiz at the Royal Forester on Monday, January 24 (7.30pm). Teams of up to four are welcome, call the Forester on Stourport 266286 for more details.

On Saturday, January 29 there's a country and western night at St Georges Social Club, Kidderminster with Arizona Freeway (7.30pm). Tickets are £2.50. Telephone Kidderminster 66458 for further information or to book.

Paul Ingenthron from Kidderminster is swimming the English Channel in August 2011 to raise money for Cancer Research and Make-A-Wish, in memory of his 14-year-old brother Mike. He needs your help, so for more details log on to www.paulswimsthechannel.org

If you're looking to promote your company, businesses can download a sponsor pack from the website, or request a hard copy by sending an email to paulswimsthechannel@googlemail.com.

Join me for Breakfast this week and we will be chatting to the man in question on Friday!

Well, I shall leave you to your paper now. Thanks for joining me as always...come and keep me company on The Wyre's Breakfast Show weekdays from 6am. Lots of banter, lots of local news and travel updates - and maybe 100% less croakiness!

If you need to contact 107.2 The Wyre or have a community announcement, email info@thewyre.com

WEATHER
UPDATE

Thankfully the winter woes now seem to be behind us and there should be plenty of long, dry and sunny spells both today and tomorrow. But it will still be cold overnight with some frost and possibly patches of freezing fog.

The weekend should be dry and bright, but cold.

DANI WOZENCROFT
FROM WYRE NEWS
WITH THE LATEST ROADWORKS

Bringing travel updates to keep you moving . . .

Kidderminster

A451 The Ringway has lane closures at the junction of the A442 and Green Street today (Jan 20).

Wolverley

Sheepwash Lane will be closed from Birds Barn Lane until tomorrow (Jan 21).

Bewdley

Richmond Road has temporary traffic lights at the Hilda Peers Way junction until tomorrow (Jan 21).

Winbrook Road has gas main work from Merricks Lane to Win-

brook Mews until March 25.

Hartlebury

A449 Waresley to Torton Road has a speed limit of 40mph and contra flow by the Old Worcester Road until April 1, 2011.

Ombersley

A449 Main Road has a speed limit of 40mph and contra flow between Sinton Lane to Haye Lane until April 3, 2011.

Stourbridge

Foster Street East closed in both directions between the A491 St

John's Road and Mount Street due to the work at the bus station until December 5, 2011.

Blakedown

A456 Birmingham Road has a 30mph speed limit approaching from Hagley until March 31.

Wannerton Road has temporary traffic lights at the Churchill Lane junction until tomorrow (Jan 21).

Join the team every weekday for updates on the roads. Tune into 107.2 The Wyre. You can be a Jambuster, call 0333 123 1072.

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Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Cheltenham
Gold Cup

Two days departing March 18



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- Visit to Bath
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Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

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the pulse



The King's Speech review – page 22

**YOUR EIGHT-PAGE
ENTERTAINMENT
GUIDE AND WEEK'S
TV VIEWING**



Theatre round-up – page 17



DVD review – page 22



Sophie Turner as Little Red Riding Hood and Sarah Colclough as James

Who will save gran's bacon?

IT'S panto time in Stourport – for not far off the 50th year.

The Monday Night Group in the town has produced an annual panto for more than 45 years.

This time round at Stourport Civic Centre it's Little Red Riding Hood, complete with Grandma, hungry wolf and three – teenage – pigs.

The group has fun on and off stage and the show has a serious side too – proceeds from each year's 4,000-plus ticket sales help contribute to the local community.

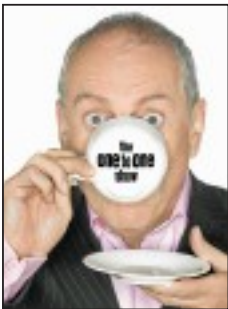
The Monday Night Group is a registered charity, and every penny of profit goes to groups in the Wyre Forest community via a presentation evening in May.

Last year saw more than £19,000 handed to 90-plus groups in the local area.

This year's show runs from January 21-29 – full details on www.mondaynightgroup.org. Tickets are available from 01299 825170.



Rich Walker as Grandma Hood and Wayne Clarke as Tom



Gyles Brandreth – show date

No hesitation or repetition when Brandreth shares the secrets of stars and politicians

TELEVISION presenter Gyles Brandreth will be sharing the secrets of his life and career at the Palace Theatre, Redditch.

Brandreth was once a Conservative junior minister, wrote a biography of the Queen and Prince Phillip and was at Oxford with Bill Clinton.

He takes his deliciously fruity vowels and actorly mien to the stage in One To One, a series of stories about his life and career with some jokes – and dreadful puns – thrown in.

Brandreth is a natural showman and

raconteur; his fiery charisma and booming voice will take you through a career from wearing questionable jumpers on Countdown to sharing insults about the Royal Variety Show with the Duke of Edinburgh.

Tears

They say all political careers end in tears. In Brandreth's case it's tears of laughter as the actor, author, One Show reporter, former MP and government whip turns stand-up.

This is Brandreth unleashed on the stars

he's known and the wicked ways of Westminster (no expenses spared).

Without hesitation or repetition, but with just a touch of deviation, the Just a Minute regular is poised to deliver a dazzling evening of wit, wordplay and name-dropping.

Tickets can be purchased for £16 at the Palace Theatre box office in person, by telephone on 01527 65203 or online from the theatre's website.

For further information visit the theatre's website www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk

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Audience to revel in Chess masterpiece

THERE'S more to Craig Revel Horwood than judging dancers on Strictly Come Dancing.

The director has won acclaim for his flamboyant touring revival of 80s West End musical Chess, a collaboration between Tim Rice and Abba's Björn Ulvæus and Benny Andersson.

The show, featuring former Wicked performer Shona White, was a hit in Wolverhampton last year and returns to the West Midlands for a run at Birmingham Hippodrome from February 7 to 12.

The show, about the duel between rival Russian and American chess grandmasters, features such songs as One Night in Bangkok, Pity The Child and the classic I Know Him So Well.

Tickets are priced from £13.50 to £37.50, available online at www.birminghamhippodrome.com or by calling 0844 338 5000.



Shona White takes centre stage in Craig Revel Horwood's revival of Chess, which is returning to the West Midlands with a run at Birmingham Hippodrome

Cantankerous Tom will soften your heart From Cornish shanties to Definite Diva songs

WARTIME weepy Goodnight Mister Tom is being brought to the stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next month.

The play is an adaptation of Michelle Magorian's hugely popular children's novel about how a young London evacuee with a sad secret forges a friendship with his cantankerous old host, the titular Mister Tom, in a rural community.

Playing Mister Tom, a role associated with the late John Thaw from a popular TV film version, is Royal Shakespeare

Company actor Oliver Ford Davies, who will be familiar to fans of the blockbuster Star Wars movies as Sio Bibble in The Phantom Menace, Attack of the Clones and Revenge of the Sith.

Goodnight Mister Tom is staged at the Grand Theatre from February 8 to 12 with matinees on the Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Tickets are priced from £6.50 to £22.50. Contact the box office on 01902 429212 or at www.grandtheatre.co.uk

CORNISH harmonies as smooth as clotted cream will be heard at Birmingham Town Hall on Tuesday, January 25, when Port Isaac's Fisherman's Friends will be in concert with songs and sea shanties from the North Cornwall fishing village (tickets £17.50).

Other forthcoming musical highlights in the city include on Thursday, January 27, a lunchtime recital by Ji Liu, winner of the Brant Piano Competition, performing Bach's Goldberg Variations (Town Hall,

£7.50); on the same day, just over an hour later at 2.15pm, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra bring spring to the city early with a performance of Beethoven and Schumann's Spring Symphonies (Symphony Hall, £9.50-£35).

On January 28, the CBSO present showbiz and pop favourites at the hall with Definitive Divas - Mary Carewe, Grainne Renihan and Emer McParland. Tickets cost £9.50 to £39.50. Call 0121 780 3333 or visit www.thsh.co.uk

COMPETITION



Music memories are just the ticket

DIRECT from the USA and celebrating 50 years of number one Motown hits, the Magic of Motown tribute concert show is heading for Wolverhampton. It is due to book into the Grand Theatre on Saturday, February 5 and the Chronicles have teamed up with the promoters to offer eight readers the chance to win free tickets and extras. The prize will consist of a pair of tickets, DVD, CD and programme for the 5pm performance. The ticket price is £19.50 and there is a later performance at 8pm (£21.50).

The record label that brought the likes of the Temptations, Diana Ross and the Supremes, the Four Tops, Stevie Wonder, the Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye, Lionel Richie, Martha Reeves, Smokey Robinson, Mary Wells and the Isley Brothers to the world enjoyed its first number one hit in 1961. Please Mr Postman by the Marvelettes was followed by a phenomenal 56 other Billboard chart toppers.

To enter, answer this simple question:
In which American city was the Motown label based?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and daytime phone number to: Motown Competition, Chronicles (Editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: January 27.

Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. There is no cash alternative. To buy tickets contact the box office: 01902 429212 <http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk>



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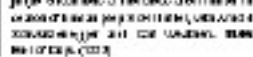
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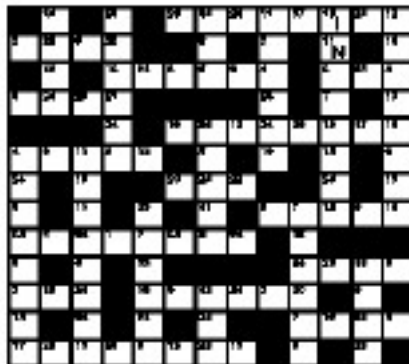
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Brain Gym

No. 100

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given starting point to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

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Circigram

Replay the question mark with a letter to form a word. All the words created can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What was the first word, and in which direction did the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
The letter was arranged to form the word 'MILK'.

Double Crossword

Cloned in a quick crossword puzzle both in the same grid.

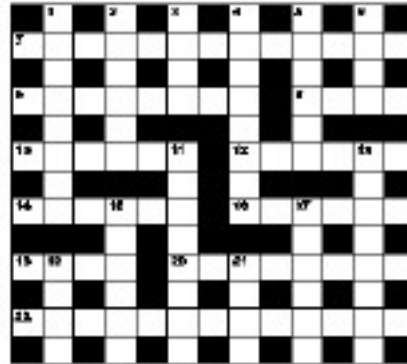
Cryptic Clues:

Across

2. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
3. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
4. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
5. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
6. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
7. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
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9. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
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13. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
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17. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
18. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
19. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
20. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)
21. A word which sort of describes a painting (10)

Down

1. The first is not left (10)
2. The first is not left (10)
3. The first is not left (10)
4. The first is not left (10)
5. The first is not left (10)
6. The first is not left (10)
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19. The first is not left (10)
20. The first is not left (10)
21. The first is not left (10)

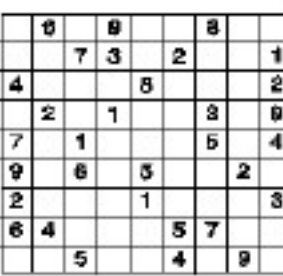


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

DOWN: 1. The first is not left (10) - 'MILK'.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



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Colin Firth is outstanding as the star of The King's Speech



Colin Firth delivers the performance of his life

Tears and laughter in Colin's crowning glory

THE KING'S SPEECH (12A)

The British are coming!" famously declared screenwriter Colin Welland in 1982 when he collected his Oscar for Chariots Of Fire.

Nearly 30 years later, his prophecy seems to be coming true.

Slumdog Millionaire was the toast of Tinseltown in 2008, garnering almost every trophy in sight, and now The King's Speech is poised to do the same, and win Colin Firth a well-deserved Academy Award into the bargain.

Last year, the British actor was cruelly denied a golden statuette for his revelatory performance as a suicidal gay lecturer in Tom Ford's directorial debut, A Single Man.

This year, he should definitely practise his self-deprecating acceptance speech for this heartrending portrayal of King George VI in Tom Hooper's majestic comedy drama. On Sunday he picked up the Golden Globe for best actor in the awards given by Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which are seen as a good indicator for the Oscars.

Firth is matched laugh for laugh by Geof-

Cinema

frey Rush in imperious form, and the cream of homegrown acting talent provides illustrious support, including Timothy Spall as Winston Churchill.

The King's Speech is an impeccably crafted chapter from recent British history that charts a remarkable and unlikely friendship between two men from opposite sides of the class divide.

When King George V (Michael Gambon) dies in 1936, eldest son Edward (Guy Pearce) ascends to the throne, but his reign is shrouded in scandal as he continues to romance American divorcee, Wallis Simpson (Eve Best).

Love triumphs over duty and Edward abdicates, forcing youngest son Albert (Firth) into the spotlight.

However, the newly crowned King George VI suffers from a crippling stammer, which renders him unable to deliver public addresses.

With war imminent and the country looking to its King for leadership, Queen Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter) approaches unconventional Australian-born speech therapist Lionel Logue (Rush) on the recommendation of a friend.

"She said your antipodean methods were both unconventional and controversial. Those are two of my favourite words," smiles Elizabeth, persuading Lionel to help her husband overcome his fears.

The King's Speech is a crowd-pleasing, heart-tugging gem, seen through the eyes of a man who is frightened to say a word for fear of what might – or might not – come out.

David Seidler's script elegantly dissects the relationship between monarch and commoner, creating memorable exchanges that provide the film with huge laughs and a strong emotional heartbeat.

Firth delivers the performance of his life, battling valiantly against his condition, while Rush is hysterical as the linguist who refuses any concessions to his king.

"My castle, my rules," he maintains.

Their double-act is glorious, including an unforgettable barrage of expletives in the name of therapy.

"Do you know the f word?" asks Lionel. "F...f...fornication?" replies Albert nervously.

The finale is guaranteed to have audiences cheering and sobbing with joy.

DVD

Old Celtic magic brings horror into 21st century

OUTCAST – CERT 18

Outcast is a wannabe horror film which draws on ancient Celtic tradition and is set among the modern landscape of a bleak high rise estate somewhere in Edinburgh.

The plot centres around a mysterious mother and son who move into one of the flats and are on the run from a deadly pursuer Cathal, played by a bearded James Nesbitt.

Using an ancient form of magic to keep themselves hidden from their hunter, Irish travellers Mary, played by Kate Dickie and her teenage son, Fergal – Niall Bruton, wind up in the dingy flat.

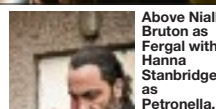
It seems their only neighbour is a family which includes the streetwise and pretty Petronella, a Scottish/Romany girl played by Hanna Stanbridge who befriends Fergal and finds him an oasis in



the tangle of her life coping with her retarded brother and alcoholic mother.

Mary is extremely protective of her son and for good reason for they hide a secret which when unleashed leaves a trail of dead bodies. She is dedicated to keeping her son out of the clutches of Cathal but now has the added complication of keeping him away from any romantic entanglement with Petronella.

Cathal using his own style of dark magic to hunt his quarry creates panic for Mary and her son as she discovers he is closing in



Above Niall Bruton as Fergal with Hanna Stanbridge as Petronella.



Left Cathal, James Nesbitt, uses ancient ritual to hunt his prey.

dark concrete landscape just waiting to be attacked.

You have to give it to director Colm McCarthy he does create a menacing arena with his shots of the bleak urban surroundings in which the characters dwell. However, Nesbitt is never fully convincing as the brooding hunter protected by the ancient symbols tattooed into his flesh as he goes on his quest.

He even comes over as a little incompetent as the one thing he is told about leaving a trail he forgets almost immediately.

Outcast doesn't really have the jump factor as a horror film and never really builds the tension high enough to keep you on the edge of your seat.

Outcast out on DVD now.

Danny Farragher



Problems

Using her own blood and protective symbols around their new home Mary uses all her witch-like powers to keep prying eyes away and to avoid the inevitable showdown with their Van Helsing-style hunter.

One of the problems with this film is it never seems sure of what it is, it's not gory enough and takes itself too seriously to be a slasher movie.

It isn't really scary enough to be a full-blown horror film and doesn't really have enough special effects to be a sci-fi movie.

There are, as you can imagine, the set pieces of the minor characters wondering around the



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All-wheel drive A1 put through paces

All for one – Audi's A1 set to get all-wheel drive, with engineers testing a quattro prototype in Canada

THE Audi A1 quattro prototype, which aims to bring all-wheel-drive to the premium subcompact hatchback segment for the first time, is currently undergoing a baptism of fire grappling with freezing conditions on Canada's densely snow-packed roads.

The one-off development car is one of the stars of the 'Fascination of quattro' event taking place in Montreal to celebrate the past, present and future of the pioneering four-wheel-drive system, which reached its 30th anniversary in 2010.

It reaffirms the brand's com-

mitment, made at the 2010 Paris Motor Show, to underpin future high performance variants of the A1 with this proven driver aid.

The latest member of the burgeoning quattro family uses technology very similar to that used in A3 and TT models.

Pump

At its core is an electronically controlled, hydraulically actuated multi-plate clutch located in front of the rear axle for an optimized distribution of weight. Inside is a package of plates that rotate in an oil bath.

During normal driving, the clutch sends most of the engine's power to the front wheels.

If the front axle loses grip, the

clutch can instantly transfer torque to the rear axle by forcing the plate packages together.

A pressure reservoir helps the electric pump to develop the necessary oil pressure.

The UK A1 range currently offers a choice of ten front-wheel-driven models powered by 1.2-litre TFSI (86PS) petrol engines and a 1.6-litre TDI (105PS) diesel, and is priced from £13,420 to £18,665 on the road.

Even before it filters into the most diminutive of Audi models, the quattro system is already a feature of over 120 variants in the Audi line-up, from the A3 hatchback through to the R8 super car.

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60	Lancer 1.8	GS2 4dr Thunder	Blue	000	£17,139	£13,695	£3444	DY60TYZ	Lancer 5 Dr	2.0 DI-D GS 2	Red	DEL MLS	17,399	£13,995	£3,404
60	Lancer 2.0	Diesel GS2 5dr	Orient Red	000	£17,494	£13,994	£3500	VK07AVN	L200	ANIMAL Auto	Black	24093		£12,912+ vat	
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DY10XTA	Lancer 5 Dr	LANCER 1.8 GS2 SP	COOL SILVER	2000	£12,475	£11,995	£480	P056ZRP	NISSAN	NAVARA ADVEN	Black	47916	Just In	£12,912+ vat	
DY10SYJ	Colt 3 Dr	1.3 C22	Spicy Red	DEL MLS	£8,995	£8,495	£500	AF58GZC	ASTRA	SRI 3DR 1.9 TDi	Black	15000	£12,495	£11,495	£1000
DY10SYO	Colt 3 Dr	1.3 C22	Spicy Red	DEL MLS	£8,995	£8,495	£500	BN59LMO	Peugeot	107 URBAN 998cc	Black	1500		£5,994	
CU08LTA	Outlander	2.0 DI-D WARRIOR	COOL SILVER	9172	£18,995	£17,495	£1,500	BT08WZH	Astra	ELITE	Beige	14153	£8,495	£7,995	£500
DV10YYL	L200	WARRIOR DBL CAB AUTOMATIC	STARLIGHT SILVER	2500	£27,724	£21,995	£5729	BD08SNF	Agila	AGILA DESIGN AUTO	Red	14004	£7,495	£6,995	£500
VU09XNJ	Lancer 5 Dr	1.5 GS2 MANUAL	Black	11103	£10,495	£9,995	£500	BP07CEO	207	1.4 SPORT 87 3DOOR	Orange	17477	£6,995	£5,995	£1,000
WJ56JVL	L200	DI-D WARRIOR DBL CAB	STARLIGHT SILVER	19871	£11,995 + VAT	£11,495 + VAT	£500	FE59VVC	Ibiza	S A/C 1.2 3 DOOR	Red	9000	£8,995	£7,995	£1,000
VK57YYJ	Lancer 4 Dr	1.6 ELEGANCE 4DOOR	AMETHYST BLACK	28264	£5,795	£4,995	£800	LN07XZR	CLK	200K SPORT 1.8 CONVERTIBLE	Silver	32418	£18,995	£17,995	£1,000
								NV56JXN	Tigra	1.8 SPORT TWINPORT CONVERTIBLE	Blue	30576	£7,995	£6,995	£1,000
								YP57MRV	Leon	1.9 STYLANCE TD	Red	14216	£9,995	£9,495	£500
								BN59XRF	Civic	1.4 SE 5 DOOR	Silver	7000	£11,795	£11,295	£500
								BV58WNG	3 TAKARA	3 TAKARA 1.6	BLACK	25000	£8,495	£7,495	£1,000
								BG57GNU	Qashgai	1.6 S DOOR	Silver	19000	£11,295	£10,995	£300
								MV57FLC	C4	1.8 PICASSO 5 V	SILVER	27200	£7,995	£7,495	£500
								DU53UJX	Charade	1.0SL AUTO 5DR	RED	32000	£2,995	£2,695	£300

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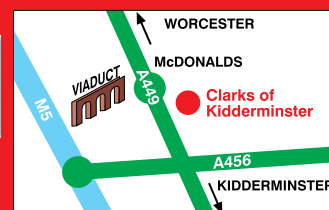


REG. NO.	VEHICLE DESCRIPTION	COLOUR	WAS	NOW	YOU SAVE	48 MONTHS	REG. NO.	VEHICLE DESCRIPTION	COLOUR	WAS	NOW	YOU SAVE	48 MONTHS
BT51NYC	Vauxhall Corsa 3Dr HAT 1.2 Comfort	Green	£2,995	£2,695	£300	£71.10	DY57VFZ	SEAT Altea 5Dr 1.9 TDI S	Blue	£8,995	£7,995	£1,000	£202.28
BX05PVE	MG ZR+ 1.8 3dr 120	Grey	£3,995	£3,495	£500	£90.90	VU58OUP	Suzuki SX4 GLX 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£8,995	£8,295	£700	£209.70
PE05BYU	Kia Picanto Lx 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£3,995	£3,495	£500	£90.90	VX08VFT	Ford Fiesta 2.0 ST 150bhp	Blue	£8,995	£8,295	£700	£209.70
LB06CNJ	Kia Rio GS 5 Door Hatchback	Silver	£4,495	£3,795	£700	£98.33	KY08AWC	SEAT Ibiza FR TDI 3 Door Hatch	Grey	£9,495	£8,495	£1,000	£214.65
VK55VUX	Ford Sportka Se 3 Door	Silver	£4,495	£3,895	£600	£100.80	VX10EZL	Splash 5Dr EST 1.0 GLS	Charcoal Black	£8,995	£8,495	£500	£214.65
VN06SHJ	Kia Magentis Ls V6 Auto	Silver	£4,495	£3,995	£500	£103.28	VO09BCF	SEAT Ibiza 5Dr HAT 1.4 Sport	Red	£9,495	£8,695	£800	£219.60
BD08LCJ	Chevrolet matiz 1.0 se a/c	Super Red	£4,695	£3,995	£700	£103.28	VO56ZZB	Suzuki Grand Vitara 16 Auto	Black	£8,995	£8,795	£200	£222.08
BL52HGY	Peugeot 206 Convertible	Silver	£4,995	£3,995	£1,000	£103.28	CV59QSA	Kia Ceed 5Dr HAT 1.6 Sr7 AU N	Black	£9,795	£8,995	£800	£227.03
VF55LUW	Kia Rio LX CRDI 5 Door Hatch	Blue	£4,995	£4,495	£500	£115.65	VN08CFE	Subaru Impreza RX 5 Door Hatch	Blue	£9,995	£8,995	£1,000	£227.03
DN07BBK	Suzuki Wagon R + GL 5 Door	Brilliant Silver	£5,295	£4,495	£800	£115.65	MA58KRN	SEAT Ibiza Sport 84 3 Door	Black	£9,695	£8,995	£700	£227.03
BL06LWO	Renault Megane Maxim 5 Door	Silver	£5,495	£4,995	£500	£128.03	VN57LBV	Kia Ceed 5Dr HAT 1.6 Crdi LS	Blue	£9,495	£8,995	£500	£227.03
SG05UDX	Vauxhall Astra Club Twinport	Silver	£5,995	£4,995	£1,000	£128.03	LG08ZGB	Kia Cee'd LS CRDI 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£10,495	£8,995	£1,500	£227.03
VK08YZM	Kia Picanto 5Dr HAT 1.0	Black	£5,195	£4,995	£200	£128.03	LB08WGP	Kia Cee'd LS CRDI 5 Door Hatch	Black	£10,495	£8,995	£1,500	£227.03
BK57WXM	Nissan Micra Sport 5 Door	Silver	£5,695	£4,995	£700	£128.03	LC08OEU	Kia Cee'd LS CRDI 5 Door Hatch	Silver	£10,495	£8,995	£1,500	£227.03
BK08PZV	Ford Ka Zetec Climate	Black	£5,495	£4,995	£500	£128.03	KU07HUH	SEAT Leon Stylance 5 Door	Red	£10,995	£9,495	£1,500	£239.40
VU58XTC	Kia Picanto Chill 5 Door Hatch	Clear White	£5,995	£5,495	£500	£140.40	VO59EOJ	SEAT Ibiza 1.6 sport 5 door	Red	£9,995	£9,495	£500	£239.40
VU58XUJ	Kia Picanto 1.1 chill	Galaxy Black	£5,995	£5,495	£500	£140.40	VK10LBU	Ibiza 1.2 S A/C NEW	Ruby Red	£9,995	£9,695	£300	£244.35
VX55WOU	Nissan Micra Essenza C+C Conv	Red	£5,995	£5,495	£500	£140.40	VK10UXU	Ibiza SE 1.4 85 PS	Black Magic	£9,995	£9,695	£300	£244.35
M10NRH	Mazda MX-5 1.8i Convertible	Silver	£6,495	£5,795	£700	£147.83	LC09UEO	Kia Soul 2 CRDI 5 Door Hatch	Black	£9,995	£9,795	£200	£246.83
BT52ZGK	Mini Mini Cooper 3 Door Hatch	Blue	£5,995	£5,795	£200	£147.83	E009VLB	Ford Fiesta Titanium 120	Blue	£10,499	£9,995	£504	£251.78
BF09KDX	Kia Picanto 5Dr HAT 1.1 RED	Red	£6,395	£5,995	£400	£152.78	VX59BFF	Hyundai I30 Comfort Crdi	Black	£10,495	£9,995	£500	£251.78
AJ06UVA	Volkswagen Golf S 5 Door Hatch	Black	£6,995	£5,995	£1,000	£152.78	UJ06YGX	Seat 9-3 Aero 210 BHP Convert	Black	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
BD56HGC	Suzuki Swift VVTS GLX 5 Door	Blue	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78	VO03TKF	Mercedes E320 CDI Advantgarde	Silver	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
VO08LDA	Kia Picanto Ice Auto	Black	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78	OY08VHD	seat leon reference	Red	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
BJ08VAK	Skoda Fabia 1 Htp 70 5 Door	Blue	£6,695	£5,995	£700	£152.78	VX10EZU	Swift 3Dr HAT 1.3 SZ3	Kashmir Blue	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000	£251.78
VK08ZBE	Kia Rio 5Dr HAT 1.4 2	Sapphire Blue	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78	VN60LCU	Ibiza SC Sport 1.4	Luna Grey	£10,495	£10,295	£200	£259.20
VO08NYP	Toyota Aygo Platinum Vvti 3 dr	Silver	£6,495	£5,995	£500	£152.78	VX10EYU	Swift 5Dr HAT 1.5 SZ4 Auto	Cosmic Black	£10,995	£10,495	£500	£264.15
VO57URP	Kia Cee'd GS CRDI 5 Door hatch	Abyss Blue	£6,995	£6,295	£700	£160.20	KW08RYB	SEAT Leon Stylance 5 Door	Grey	£11,495	£10,995	£500	£276.53
VK06TWE	Suzuki Jimney VVTS Convertible	Blue	£6,495	£6,295	£200	£160.20	FE59BOU	KIA Cee'd LS CRDI SW Estate	Grey	£12,495	£11,295	£1,200	£283.95
VK07JKN	Kia Cee'd 1.6 GS Auto	Red	£6,995	£6,495	£500	£165.15	VN60LCT	Ibiza Sport 1.4 Sport 5Dr	Galia Blue	£11,495	£11,295	£200	£283.95
VN08LGX	Seat Ibiza 1.4 sport (100PS)	Emocion Red	£6,995	£6,495	£500	£165.15	KT08AHJ	Seat 9-3 Vector Sport TID Auto	Black	£11,995	£11,495	£500	£288.90
VX10EYV	Alto 5Dr HAT 1.0 SZ3	Azure Grey Perl	£6,995	£6,695	£300	£170.10	VA57UPK	Volkswagen Touran se tdi 140	Blue	£12,595	£11,695	£900	£293.85
VX10EYV	Alto 5Dr HAT 1.0 SZ3	Paradise Blue	£7,995	£6,995	£1,000	£177.53	YR57FVZ	SEAT Leon 2.0fsi i cupra 5dr	Grey	£12,495	£11,695	£800	£293.85
BF10TXD	Renault Twingo Extreme 60	White	£7,995	£6,995	£1,000	£177.53	VN06FWU	Audi A3 Se Tdi 5 Door Hatch	Grey	£12,495	£11,995	£500	£301.28
VE08TZK	SEAT Ibiza Sportrider 3 Door	Emocion Red	£7,995	£6,995	£1,000	£177.53	VA56CAX	Audi A4 TDI 140 Convertible	Black	£13,995	£12,495	£1,500	£313.65
VK57UTP	Kia Cee'd LD CRDI SW Estate	Blue	£8,999	£7,295	£1,704	£184.95	FG10ERZ	SEAT Altea S Emocion TDI MPV	Silver	£13,995	£12,995	£1,000	£326.03
VK08YZS	Kia Ceed 1.6 SR 5dr	Monsoon Blue	£7,995	£7,295	£700	£184.95	BN59DBO	Kia Soul Burner Crdi	Black	£13,495	£12,995	£500	£326.03
FL56HVN	SEAT Altea 5Dr 1.9 TDI Reference	Blue	£7,495	£7,295	£200	£184.95	VN06SGO	Kia Sorento CRDI XS 5 Door	Ice Blue/Pewter	£13,995	£13,795	£200	£345.83
KM07KBE	SEAT Altea XL Stylance TDI 105	Black	£7,995	£7,495	£500	£189.90	KY09EEO	SEAT Exeo Sport CR TDI 141	Grey	£14,995	£13,995	£1,000	£350.78
VO58SSZ	Dodge Caliber 2.0 5 Door Hatch	Blue	£8,495	£7,495	£1,000	£189.90	CP56NTT	Kia Sorento XT Auto 5 Door	Silver	£14,995	£14,795	£200	£370.58
VN58VDD	Swift 3Dr HAT 1.6 VVT SPT	White	£7,995	£7,795	£200	£197.33	KV59XYX	SEAT Exeo SE CR TDI Estate	Red	£16,499	£14,995	£1,504	£375.53
							VX09OGO	Suzuki Grand Vitara DDIS Estate	Grey	£15,995	£15,795	£200	£395.33
							DN09CMOSEAT	Leon 5Dr HAT 2.0 TSI Cupra	Orange	£16,995	£16,295	£700	£407.70
							VO59NRK	Sportage 5Dr EST 2.0 Crdi Titan	Phantom Black	£16,495	£16,295	£200	£407.70
							YG09JYL	SEAT Leon Cupra TSI 5 Door	Blue	£17,995	£16,995	£1,000	£425.03
							VX10EZZ	Grand Vitara 5Dr 1.9 DDIS SZ5	EverGreen	£19,995	£18,995	£1,000	£474.53

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sport

LEADERS MADE TO WORK HARD

Kidderminster Carolians 20 Dunlop 40

DUNLOP maintained their 100 per cent record, but were made to work very hard by a determined and focused Kidderminster Carolians side.

The league leaders certainly knew they had been in a game – and one played in a good spirit despite the plethora of cards dished out by the referee, **writes Martin Easton.**

The home forwards quickly imposed themselves in the loose and with 10 minutes on the clock a series of surging drives won a penalty which fly-half Tom Scandrett, in the absence of Andy McLellan and John Mounter, stroked between the sticks. Dunlop, however, responded and their centre went under the posts for a converted try to put them ahead.

Their left wing was then yellow carded for a late tackle but the 14 men were able to create space on the far flank for their right wing to cross for a try.

Carolians battle to draw

Kidderminster 12 Bredon 12

KIDDERMINSTER'S under-15 side played out a stirring draw against a strong Bredon team.

Carolians, with tries from Mitch Dwyers and Dan Cooper, plus a David Bissett conversion, led 12-5 at the break.

But in the second period the visitors fashioned a converted try to bring the scores level for what the home contingent saw as a fair result.

The KC forwards responded with a terrific series of drives which forced a penalty, kicked to touch. From the throw KC's were held up over the line but Billy Bennett finished the job. Scandrett's difficult conversion striking a post.

With half-time approaching Alex Baldwin was shown yellow and inside a minute Dunlop manufactured an overlap for their right wing to touch down for his second try, converted via the crossbar, and a 19-8 lead at the break.

Early in the second half Dunlop's tighthead prop was yellow carded and on Baldwin's return it was the turn of KC's prop Carl Whitehead to visit the sinbin.

Wriggled

Two Dunlop penalties stretched the lead to 25-8 but KCs fired back with winger James Guest held up at the corner after a flowing move. Scandrett wriggled over for a try but Dunlop's centre responded in kind and the conversion took the score to 32-13.

A difference of opinion between home prop Russ and his opposite number saw Gauden given a yellow and the Dunlop prop, already on a card, dismissed.

A Dunlop try in the corner which would surely have been referred "upstairs" for television analysis in the Premiership, plus another penalty gave the visitors a rather flattering 40-13 advantage but a late try by replacement wing Scott Lovell and Scandrett's conversion reflected the balance of play more realistically.

Kidderminster, with players due back from injury, can take great heart from this performance.

Saxons pressure does not convert to points

Wharfedale 30 Stourbridge Saxons 15

WHARFEDAILE claimed the double over a misfiring Saxons side.

But it would have been the home team celebrating had they managed to convert some of their first-half pressure into points, **writes David Laurence.**

Skipper Ben Hughes handed them the early start with a try after just

six minutes, the visitors responding with a Tom Barrett penalty.

But from then on the Saxons dominated only to find some stubborn

defending from the Yorkshire side blocking them. Prop Will Davis had

what appeared to be a legitimate try chalked off by referee John Meredith and the visitors had second row Talite Vaoleti sent to the sin bin after one too many penalty offences in front of the Wharfedale line.

But there was still no way through and Stourbridge paid the price as

Wharfedale bagged a penalty and brace of tries late in the half.

Simon Horsfall and Dan Solomoni both crossed for converted tries and a 20-5 lead at the end of the half.

The Saxons edged closer when James Rodley was driven over on 53 minutes. But that momentum was lost when

winger Simon Frewin was shown a red card for stamping.

Rob Baldwin and James Druce scored further tries for Wharfedale as they went clear.

Centre Tom Jarvis dived in at the corner late on for the Saxons but the visitors never looked like relinquishing their lead.

England star Cueto tags along



England star Mark Cueto, third from left, with Rubery CSO Sarah Wells, Kings Norton tag rugby coach Andy Moseley and Alvechurch and Wythall CSO Vicky Elliot

Almond drives Harriers nuts with a double

Barrow 2 Kidderminster 1

A GOAL in each half from Louis Almond maintained Barrow's 100 per cent winning record over Kidderminster since returning to non-league's top flight in 2008.

The victory also ended Harriers' unbeaten run in 2011 as they tasted defeat on their league travels for the first time since losing at Crawley in October.

Kidderminster skipper Keith Briggs saw his fourth-minute drive rebound off an upright and his follow-up effort cleared off the line by Phil Bolland as the visitors began brightly.

Harriers dominated the opening spell but Chris McPhee's ambitious overhead kick sailed wide as the Barrow defence stood firm.

On 17 minutes Barrow's first real attack paid dividends. Paul Edwards and Paul Rutherford combined down the right and

when Almond was released into the area, the loan signing from Blackpool crashed a rising drive inside Danny Lewis' left post. Almond posed more problems for the Harriers rearranging, forcing Lewis into a save away to his left, before the visitors responded.

Lee Morris broke free only to see his shot ricochet off keeper Clark Masters, the ball falling to the edge of the area where McPhee's goalbound effort was diverted over by Mike Pearson.

After the break Harriers laid siege to the Barrow goal and McPhee brought an instinctive save from Masters.

Harriers' task was made even harder on 54 minutes when Almond raced 60 yards before drilling a low 20-yarder into the corner. Nick Wright brought them back into the game with a 79th-minute goal but Barrow held on.

ENGLAND rugby union star Mark Cueto spent an afternoon getting muddy with police officers and Community Support Officers from north Worcestershire.

The winger helped train them to teach tag rugby sessions to local children.

West Mercia Police is a leading organisation in the Rugby Football Union's community tag rugby programme.

It is delivered with milkshake firm Yazoo and The Child Victims of Crime (CVOC) organisation.

Tag Rugby is West Mercia Police's youth activity of choice and CVOC has paid for 47 staff to be trained.

Officers from Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch joined others from across the force on January 12 at Kings Norton Rugby Club to get tips from Cueto and RFU officials.

Essential

The England winger said: "Kids see big hits and collisions in rugby on TV and that can be frightening."

"Tag rugby takes that element out of it but they still learn the fundamentals of the game which are essential if they are going to carry on with the sport. It's also a fun way of learning some very important messages."

The scheme encourages children to participate in sport, pursue healthier lifestyles and through the Tackle Safety programme prevents them from becoming victims of crime.

Last year, many schools from Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch took part in West Mercia Police's tag tournament with some going on to region and national competitions.

Johnson is the star in fine victory

Leek 0 Stourport 3

STOURPORT ladies 1st XI made their trip to Leek for a friendly fixture worthwhile with three second half goals.

The visitors began well keeping the pressure on the Leek defence from the outset, with Rene Johnson outstanding in attack.

However Leek's keeper repeatedly denied the visitors. The home team pushed forward on occasions but were well held by Stourport's defence.

Stourport hockey

Bromsgrove 4 Stourport 3

Short-handed Stourport fifths battled hard in a friendly at Bromsgrove but came up just short.

They arrived short of players and made up the numbers with some of the home squad. But it was Stourport who went ahead in the opening 10 minutes when Hazel Claris tapped in a goalbound shot.

The goal shook Bromsgrove into life and they equalised following relentless pressure. Stourport pushed forward on occasions but it was the home side which scored next and then had a goal disallowed.

Whistle

But Bromsgrove scored just before the half-time whistle to leave the visitors with a two-goal deficit.

But Stourport were not finished and scored in the opening minutes of the second half when their player of the match Karen McIntyre converted from a short corner.

Stourport were pushing the ball around nicely and as a result were able to mount some good attacks.

However this did not prevent the home side from adding a fourth.

Again Stourport dug in, pulling the score back to 4-3 through Pauline Knott after some excellent work in the D by Caroline Wilson.

Both sides continued to press for further goals but neither could find a further way through each other's defence.

The Kidderminster Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Wolverhampton, on Thursday, January 20, 2011.

Captain Jane will mark new century



Jane Murrant and captain Paul Massey

KIDDERMINSTER Golf Club has its first woman vice-captain, Jane Murrant.

Her two-year tenure in the role, supporting new club captain Paul Massey, will prepare her for November 2012 when she will become the first lady club captain of Kidderminster since the club was established in 1909.

Mr Massey said: "Kidderminster GC recognised the need for true sexual equality within golf clubs many years ago and has since striven to be a club that is run for the benefit of all members.

"Jane's appointment as vice captain, and subsequently captain, is evidence of our continuing policy of progressive leadership.

"We recognise that the needs of the club are best served by appointing the right people to lead it, and Jane brings all the qualities and experience we need as we enter our second century."



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